

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN TUVALU



Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

Strengthening water security in Tuvalu



Project focus: Water Sector



Project timeframe



1 January 2019- 30 June 2023

National implementing agencies



Climate Change Department,
Public Works Department (PWD),
Funafuti Kaupule, Ministry of
Education

Beneficiaries



Direct benefit: **6,716 persons**

Indirect benefit: **3,929 persons**

Tuvalu is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters.

Project synopsis

The 'Strengthening water security in Tuvalu' project will expand previous water security interventions to establish effective backup water supply and access for households, schools, government facilities and the wider communities of Funafuti. A number of technical training opportunities will be provided in areas of desalination operations and maintenance, water management and maintenance of water harvesting systems to the PWD staff, teachers and students of Nauti Primary and the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Primary and identified technicians and builders.

How does this project address climate change adaptation in Tuvalu?

Water scarcity is a major issue in Tuvalu with the issue intensifying severely in dry seasons and droughts. This situation is exacerbated as a result of climate change and variability. The primary water source is from rainwater catchment systems and groundwater is classified non-potable in most islands due to high salinity levels and pollution. In Funafuti, the demand for freshwater is close to reaching the estimated sustainable yields for freshwater supply. Improving water security is a high priority for the Government of Tuvalu and the SUPA project will scale up and support the ongoing efforts by the Government of Tuvalu.

The project will scale up past initiatives by the Government of Tuvalu and Japan on the backup supply of freshwater through desalination plants. A 20m³/day, solar powered and portable desalination unit will be procured and installed in Funafuti to supply the residents with freshwater. Enhanced skills in operations and maintenance of the unit will be achieved through specialized training of PWD staff and relevant technicians in the country. In times of dry spells and when needed, the unit may be transported to and used in outer islands.

To improve water supply and access, a water truck of 10,000 litre capacity will be procured and operated in Funafuti by the PWD. The truck will deliver freshwater from the desalination plants and water cisterns to the residents of the island.

After assessments of the water systems at Nauti Primary and the SDA Primary schools in Funafuti, the water systems will be refurbished. Training on water management and water systems maintenance will be provided to the staff and students of the two schools.



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The project is conducting assessments of existing water systems and improving/installing new water systems while providing specialized training of these new systems.

Key Highlights

Scaling up water supply



- Conducting assessments of existing desalination plants with regards to capacity, operations, maintenance and costs.
- Installing a portable, solar powered desalination plant in Funafuti.
- Delivering the specialized training in desalination plant operations and maintenance to the staff of PWD and relevant technicians.
- Inspecting and assessing the water systems at Nauti and SDA Primary Schools.
- Refurbishing water systems at the two schools.
- Delivering capacity building trainings on water management and water systems maintenance to staff and students.
- Supplying and operating the 10,000 litre water truck for water delivery across Funafuti.

Enhancing institutional capacity



- Monitoring and assessing the impacts of past climate change adaptation to contribute to national strategic planning.
- Contributing to the delivery of the strategic targets in the Tuvalu Sustainable and Integrated Water and Sanitation Policy (2012 – 2021).

Building community resilience



- Building the capacity of community and village leaders in climate resilience through accredited training.
- Assessing community development plans to identify entry points for climate and disaster resilience.

Activities meet the following SDGs:



About the SUPA project

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5-year project (2019-2023) is funded with € 14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and The University of the South Pacific (USP), in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The **Overall Objective** of the GCCA+ SUPA project is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience within ten Pacific island countries.

The **Specific Objective** is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans.